



Gilbert's 90th Birthday Party

Tuesday, July 6, 2010

Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer

Happy Birthday, Gilbert!

Thank you for having me here today.

When I heard that the largest "Town" in the entire nation – the Town that continues to boom and attract new homes and unique industry to our state – was having a birthday party ... well ... I just KNEW I had to come and share my best wishes.

And, you DO deserve warm applause on this happy day.

We are standing in a Town that demonstrates what can be done with a lot of smart planning, courageous leadership – and, yes, a lot of heart.

Gilbert was born a small agricultural community far on the outskirts of Phoenix.

The construction of a train depot -- thanks to William "Bobby" Gilbert -- sparked what is today one of the most thriving communities in our state, now centrally located in the booming Southeast Valley.

We look to Gilbert as the home to top health care facilities featuring internationally famous experts dedicated to saving lives and keeping our families healthy.

The future for this community is in biotechnology, science, and engineering – the kinds of industries that will keep us strong as a state.

But, what we see here this evening is that even as Gilbert moves forward, this is a Town that always remembers its roots.

The story of that train depot is cherished, and etched into architecture around this Town, including into the roadways of your original downtown square mile.

Your historic water tower is now a beautiful park for residents to enjoy history.

I know you will continue cherishing that past, and capturing it, as you grow and advance your economic development.

Lastly, your birthday celebration also forecasts another special ceremony -- our Arizona State Centennial, on February 14, 2012.

I encourage you to get involved in helping to plan for THAT celebration as well.

We should all have pride in our communities and our state.

It is a pride that comes from the heart ... the heart of people who stand together honoring their history and culture – as Gilbert is doing this evening -- and looking toward the future for the sake of our families, and our home.

May God bless you and your families; God bless Gilbert, and God bless the great state of Arizona.

Thank you.